

# Miracle Ear Center

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8285 '00 OCT 19 P2:10

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Honorable Donna Shalala  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 615F  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala,

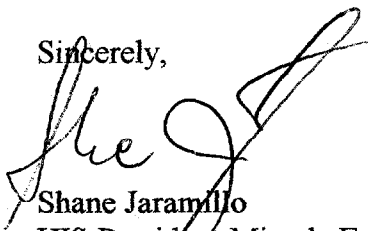
I am a small business owner in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am concerned that the Government may put me out of business. I am a hearing instrument specialist serving over 10,000 hearing impaired Americans. The FDA is reportedly planning to allow the states to pick and choose which tests must be required before a hearing aid can be purchased and which hearing health providers are qualified to conduct such tests.

Hearing health care providers like myself have been working with the FDA since 1993 to streamline the current FDA hearing aid regulations. This rule would be the worst thing ever imaginable for the hearing impaired. It would cut down the places they could go to buy hearing aids or get service to less than 1/3 of the choices they have today. Please do not let this happen.

We, as hearing instrument specialists, are just as qualified as any of the audiologists or physicians currently helping the hearing impaired. This rule would only hurt the industry, not help. AARP recently published a *Consumer Guide to Hearing Aids* which found that "almost everyone with a hearing loss hears better with a hearing aid, yet only 20% of those who need an aid, get one". Please do not let the FDA erect barriers to this safe and effective product.

Please do not let the FDA publish its proposed hearing aid rule. It will not be good for anyone.

Sincerely,



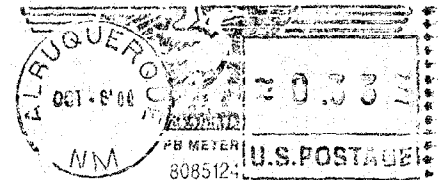
Shane Jaramillo  
HIS-President-Miracle Ear NM

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**SEARS**

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